



# HELP US LEAVE DALE FARM

**Traveller  
family are  
trapped  
on site by  
protest  
barricade**

**EXCLUSIVE**

By JON AUSTIN [jon.austin@group.com](mailto:jon.austin@group.com)

TRAVELLERS who want to leave Dale Farm before the eviction are trapped on the site because of the scaffolding barricade, it has been claimed.

One family tried to leave yesterday, but the barricade put up by protesters meant the exit was too narrow to get their caravan out, according to a source.

Council leader Tony Ball said: "All we can do is urge those who say they support the residents of Dale Farm to take down this scaffolding now and allow the genuine travellers to leave the site without hindrance."

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**Caravans park up on trading estate** Page 2

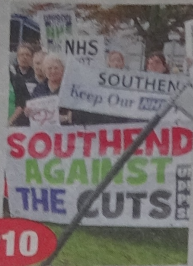
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**TOMORROW: Celebrating 100 years of the Southend Music Festival in MEMORIES**

# Family can't get past Dale Farm barriers as caravans park up in town Travellers trying to leave camp halted by barricade

By JON AUSTIN  
jon.austin@nqe.com

TRAVELLERS who wanted to leave Dale Farm before the eviction, could not get off the land because of the scaffold barricades put up by protesters.

A man is understood to have been frustrated in his attempts to leave the Crays Hill site.

He wanted to avoid getting caught up in the eviction, scheduled to start on September 19.

The man made it clear he wanted his family to leave. But the scaffolding is now said to be much too narrow for a caravan or large vehicle to pass through.

There were some heated words between him and those organising the resistance, who refused to

**The man wanted to leave, but the scaffolding is much too narrow for a caravan**

remove the barrier to let him pass. It is unclear if he was able to leave, or if his family is still trapped at the site.

It has raised concerns about whether fire engines and ambulances would be able to enter the camp, where two people died in a mobile home blaze in 2005.

Council leader Tony Ball said: "It is ironic a traveller who wants

## Fears over 'breakdown' near leisure park



■ Parked up – travellers near Basildon's Festival Leisure Park  
Picture: PAUL WATSON BA49189

to leave Dale Farm appeared to be imprisoned by those who claim to be defending the residents.

"All we can do is urge those who say they support the residents of Dale Farm to take down this scaffolding now and allow the genuine travellers to leave the site without hindrance."

Candy Sheridan, who is representing the families, said she spent most of the day on the site yesterday and did not see anyone trying to leave. She said: "If anyone wanted to leave the barriers could be moved. Of course people are able to leave the site."

An Essex Police spokesman

A GROUP of Irish travellers set up a makeshift camp in Basildon yesterday afternoon.

Eleven caravans were spotted near Festival Leisure Park yesterday afternoon. The group, from Sligo in Ireland, said they were on their holidays and had broken down. There was speculation they could be linked to Dale Farm, but they denied this.

A man in his thirties, who would not be named, said: "We have just broken down. We have heard about Dale Farm though, and sympathise with them if they have been there for ten years."

An Essex Police spokesman said: "Police spoke to one of the families, who assured they would leave once the repairs were done."

The group was served notices to leave.

added: "We have been on the site every day. There has been no problem with access during police patrols."

On Monday, the Echo reported claims some travellers were fed up with the protesters living on the site, as well as the international media glare, and may try to leave.

**Echo**  
prompt  
action  
for here

AN Echo story about housing needs of an soldier has sparked outrage.

We told last month Private Alex Stringer lost three limbs Afghanistan, was housed sixth floor flat in Chad Mary. He told us the flat so cramped he couldn't fit his own kitchen.

The story has been widely reported in the national media and Thurrock Council said yesterday it is everything it can to get Private Stringer.

Council leader John said: "We worked with family and health professionals to ensure we could help him regain his independence at home."

Alex, 20, and his wife Danielle, 19, were living in a flat in Poole House, Gosport Road, before he was injured by a roadside bomb.

The couple requested property transfer – but they've been told they will be able to have another property for five years.

At the time, a Thurrock Council spokesman said the council was trying to get in contact with the couple to rehouse them.

Mr Kent added yesterday: "It is only today we received an assessment from the Army rehabilitation team."

"Private Stringer continues his treatment at the unit we are determined when he comes back it will be of the type of accommodation he needs and deserves."

**Basildon Labour leader's shame as Ed backs eviction plan: P14-15**

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■ Editor: MARTIN McNEILL  
01268 469373